

FACT SHEET

AMENDMENTS TO EPA's NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS : GROUP I AND GROUP IV POLYMERS AND RESINS

TODAY'S ACTION

- , The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today issuing final rule amendments to the toxic air pollutant emission standards the Agency had previously established for Group I Polymers and Resins (elastomer production processes) and Group IV Polymers and Resins (thermoplastic production processes). Toxic air pollutants are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer and/or other serious health effects.
- , The amendments will make minor clarifications and correct minor discrepancies. Today's action will not change the control technology, the predicted emissions reductions, or the cost of the final rule.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- , EPA's Group I and Group IV Polymers and Resins standards regulate the emissions of twenty of the pollutants identified in the Clean Air Act's list of 188 hazardous air pollutants.
- , EPA's Group I and Group IV Polymers and Resins standards are expected to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants by 9,920 tons/year. This represents about a thirty percent reduction from levels existing in 1996.
- , Today's amendments will correct minor discrepancies such as cross referencing and typographical errors, and make minor clarifications.

BACKGROUND

- , Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. On July 16, 1992, the EPA published a list of source categories that emit one or more of these toxic air pollutants. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons annually or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to develop standards that will require the application of stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology.
- , EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated identified nine source categories producing major elastomers. These elastomers are used to produce such consumer items as

automobile tires, belts and hoses. EPA also identified six source categories producing major thermoplastic resins and polymers on the published list. These thermoplastic resins are used in the production of such items as textile fibers, household appliances, and interior panels in the automotive industry.

- , EPA's Group I Polymers and Resins standards were promulgated on September 5, 1996, and the Group IV Polymers and Resins standards were promulgated on September 12, 1996.
- , In November 1996, Dow Chemical Company filed a petition for judicial review of the promulgated rules in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Dow Chemical Co. v. EPA, 96-1417 (D.C. Cir.).
- , EPA proposed amendments to these air toxics standards as a result of a settlement agreement between the Dow Chemical Company and the EPA on March 9, 1999. Comments were received from the affected industry and where it was judged appropriate, revisions to the proposed amendments were made based on those comments. EPA promulgated those final amendments to Group I Polymers and Resins and Group IV Polymers and Resins on June 19, 2000.

WHAT WILL THESE AMENDMENTS CHANGE?

- , These amendments make minor clarifications and corrections, and will not substantially change the requirements of the final rules.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- , Interested parties can download the amendments from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. In addition, the amendments can be obtained from the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, by telephone (202) 260-7548 or by electronic mail, a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov. The docket numbers are A-92-44 for Group I Polymers and Resins and A-92-45 for Group IV Polymers and Resins.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.
- , For questions on the proposed revisions, contact Mr. Robert Rosensteel of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5608.